

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

CHRISTOPH DOBRUSSKIN ET AL

PHN 16,257A

Serial No.

Group Art Unit:

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Examiner:

TITLE: MULTIMEDIA METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN A SCREEN-BASED HOST AND VARIOUS DISTRIBUTED AND FREE-STYLIZED INFORMATION CONTAINING ITEMS, AND AN INFORMATION CONTAINING ITEM FOR USE WITH SUCH SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Concurrent with the filing of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, in the paragraph beginning on line 14, change as follows:

In consequence, amongst other things, it is an object of the present invention to provide the system versus such data items with an immediate reactivity and physical recognizability as to their content. Now therefore, according to one of its aspects, the invention is characterized in that said multimedia method comprises the steps of allowing the distributed items to exchange analog or digital information under proximity conditions with respect to the host, but without requiring formatted berth facilities of the host,

with respect to various such items evoking through self-identifying thereof associated specific iconizing by the host for signaling to a user an associated and selective information processing and/or entertainment oriented service field, furthermore so allowing by the host a user person to activate information processing operations with respect to the selective service field,

having each item so keeping abreast of host-generated results during such proximity conditions as being relevant to its associated field,

whilst allowing free styling of such item with respect to physical shape requirements thereto.

The evoking of a specific icon on the host screen is token for an allowable interactivity, and the storing of appropriate processing results in the item allows a user to discontinue a session, whilst still being able to later resume at an interaction point that is deemed relevant. The free-styling of the items makes recognizing easier for little children and other categories of people.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3 without prejudice.

Please add Claims 4-15 as follows:

4. (New) A multimedia method for use with a screen-based host system provided with information processing and I/O facilities, and for interacting with an item, said method comprising:

transmitting information to said host in response to proximity conditions between said host and said item, and
signaling to a user an associated service field in response to said transmitted information.

5. (New) The method of Claim 4, comprising enabling said user to activate information processing operations related to said associated service field.

6. (New) The method of Claim 4, comprising transmitting to said item host-generated results related to said associated service field during such proximity conditions.

7. (New) The method of Claim 4, comprising producing an iconized representation at said host in response to said associated service field.

8. (New) A multimedia method for use with a screen-based host system provided with information processing and I/O facilities, and for interacting with a distributed item, said method comprising:

identifying said item in response to proximity conditions between said host and said item; and
signaling to a user an associated service field.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8, comprising producing an icon in response to said identifying for signaling to a user said associated service field.

10. (New) The method of Claim 8, comprising enabling an input for a user to activate information processing operations related to said associated service field.

11. (New) The method of Claim 8, comprising transmitting to said item host-generated results during such proximity conditions related to said associated service field.

12. (New) A multimedia method for use with a screen-based host system provided with information processing and I/O facilities, and for interacting with an item, said method comprising:

identifying said host to said item in response to proximity conditions between said host and said item;

transmitting information to said host in response to said proximity conditions, and

signaling to a user an associated service field in response to said transmitted information.

13. (New) The method of Claim 12, comprising enabling said user to activate information processing operations related to said associated service field.

14. (New) The method of Claim 12, comprising transmitting to said item host-generated results related to said associated service field during such proximity conditions.

15. (New) The method of Claim 12, comprising producing an iconized representation at said host in response to said associated service field.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the present Abstract and substitute the Abstract attached that follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A screen-based host with processing and I/O facilities interacts with distributed items that are arranged for storing and exchanging digital information with the host. In particular, under proximity conditions and initially without user interaction, the items exchange accordingly with the host, but without requiring formatted berth facilities of the host. The various items through associated self-identifying evoke specific iconizing by the host for signaling to the user an associated service field. The host allows a user person to activate data processing operations with respect to the service field. During proximity conditions, the items keep abreast of host-generated results relevant to a corresponding service field. The host allows free styling of the items with respect to the item's physical shape.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed to continue prosecution of Claims cancelled without prejudice in a priority application and in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 1, 2001. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In relevant part, as of the Final Office Action, Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,788,507 to Redford ("Redford"). Claims 8-12 were allowed in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/031,695.

Claims 4-15 are added by this amendment. Claims 4-7 of the present patent application correspond to Claims 4-7 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/031,695. Claims 8-11 are method claims of similar scope to allowed Claims 8-11 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/031,695 and should be allowable for the same reasons.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 4-7 in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/031,695 is discussed further herein below. Redford shows an interactive system that requires a user to push a button 104 on a remote control to cause a host device to access electronic content from a remote server (see FIGs. 1E and 4A and accompanying text at Col. 2, lines 55-65, Col. 14, lines 33-44, and Col. 3, lines 1-10). Redford, similar to all the previously cited

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prior art (see, previous Office Actions), requires a user to depress a button to elicit a response from the remote user. Accordingly, Redford, like the other prior art requires a users awareness of the proximity condition and user interaction thereafter to elicit a response from the remote user. In fact, in Redford the transmission of information is in response to a user action and is not in response to proximity conditions.

In the present invention, "the host detects whether a distributed item is within an appropriate proximity ... If yes, in block 64, the identity of the item is recognized. ... Upon recognition, the associated icon is displayed ..." In other words, the host responds to the distributed item, not as a result of a user depressing a button, but directly in response to the proximity condition between the host and the distributed item. This alleviates the need for a user to recognize the proximity condition, and thereafter to depress a button to initiate the exchange between the host and the distributed item as required in all of the cited the prior art including Redford.

Accordingly, none of the cited prior art including presently cited Redford discloses or suggests, (emphasis provided) "transmitting information to the host in response to proximity conditions between the item and the host" as required by Claim 4 and as substantially required by Claims 12. In addition, none of the cited prior art discloses nor suggests "identifying said host

to said item in response to proximity conditions between said host and said item" as further required by Claim 12. Accordingly, Claims 4 and 12 are allowable over the cited prior art and an indication to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 5-7 and 13-15 depend from one of Claims 4 and 12 and therefore are also allowable over the cited prior art for at least that reason as well as for the individual elements recited in each of the above claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 5-7 and 13-15 also be allowed.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of Claims 4-15 is respectfully requested.

The Applicant has made a sincere effort to place this application in suitable condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Senior Patent Counsel
(914) 333-9665
November 12, 2001

APPENDIX

AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Page 1, in the paragraph beginning on line 14, change as follows:

In consequence, amongst other things, it is an object of the present invention to provide the system versus such data items with an immediate reactivity and physical recognizability as to their content. Now therefore, according to one of its aspects, the invention is characterized in that said multimedia method comprises the steps of allowing the distributed items to exchange analog or digital information under proximity conditions with respect to the host, but without requiring formatted berth facilities of the host,

with respect to various such items evoking through self-identifying thereof associated specific iconizing by the host for ~~signalling~~signaling to a user an associated and selective information processing and/or entertainment oriented service field, furthermore so allowing by the host a user person to activate information processing operations with respect to the selective service field,

having each item so keeping abreast of host-generated results during such proximity conditions as being relevant to its associated field,

whilst allowing free styling of such item with respect to physical shape requirements thereto.

The evoking of a specific icon on the host screen is token for an allowable interactivity, and the storing of appropriate processing results in the item allows a user to discontinue a session, whilst still being able to later resume at an interaction point that is deemed relevant. The free-styling of the items makes recognizing easier for little children and other categories of people.

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

ABSTRACT:

A multimedia method and system for interaction between a screen-based host and various distributed and free-styled information containing items, and an information containing item for use with such system.

In multimedia method a screen-based host with processing and I/O facilities interacts with distributed items that are arranged for storing and exchanging digital information with the host. In particular, under proximity conditions and initially without user interaction, the items exchange accordingly with the host, but without requiring formatted berth facilities of the host. The various items through associated self-identifying evoke specific iconizing by the host for signalling-to-asignaling to the user an associated service field. The host allows a user person to activate data processing operations with respect to the service field. During proximity conditions the item keeps conditions, the items keep abreast of host-generated results relevant to itsa corresponding service field. The host allows free styling of the items with respect to theirthe item's physical shape.